

# INFANT DEATH RATES BY COUNTY AND RACE

## Objective

By 1990, no county and no racial or ethnic group of the population should have an infant mortality rate in excess of 12 deaths per 1,000 live births.

## Explanatory Notes

Infant deaths are deaths of residents under one year of age. In order to present more stable rates, county rates are for the five-year period 1986-90. Race categories are identified as white and nonwhite.

## Findings

For the period 1986-90, 42 of the 100 counties experienced infant death rates above 12.0. The county rates ranged from 2.9 in Clay to 20.9 in Washington, as shown on the next page.

As shown on page 18, North Carolina did not achieve the 1990 projected rate for either race. U.S. nonwhites appear unlikely to have achieved the goal of 12.0, and despite substantial reductions, the N.C. nonwhite rate did not come close.

## Similar National Objectives for the Year 2000

- o Reduce the infant mortality rate among blacks to no more than 11 per 1,000 live births.
- o Reduce the infant mortality rate among American Indian/Alaska Natives to no more than 8.5 per 1,000 live births.
- o Reduce the infant mortality rate among Puerto Ricans to no more than eight per 1,000 live births.

## Data Sources

North Carolina: State Center for Health and Environmental Statistics  
United States: National Center for Health Statistics

## COUNTIES WITH INFANT DEATH RATES GREATER THAN TWELVE

